



City of Sammamish

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY

October 27, 2003 Meeting – 6:30 P.M.

Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District Headquarters

Next meeting November 24, 2003

PRESENT:

Manager Jeff Watling, Park Planner Hope Gibson, Cornell Amaya, Paul Brodeur, David Lee, Joyce McCallum, John Rossi, and Patrick Schligh.

Robert Armstead, Chris Leyerle, Lynn Rehn and Tom Schloetter were absent and excused.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. The approval of September minutes was postponed to the end of the meeting to give the Commission time to review.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Doerr informed the Commission that an appeal has been filed against the city in regard to Ebright Creek Park. Mary contends that the city did not follow proper planning procedures, and has kept citizens as well as the Commission in the dark on a number of issues. Marianne Wilkins added that the city considered SEPA impacts too late in the planning process.

Bente Pasko presented the Commission with copies of the legal brief filed against the city in the matter of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, to alleviate the Commission's concerns regarding her involvement on the Trails Committee.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

a) Sammamish Commons

1. Skatepark

Terry Reckord, Vinita Sidhu, and Scott Yamamura of McCloud Reckord presented concept drawings for the skatepark, which include a 70' x 140' skatepark, basketball court and climbing wall. The park will be lit for evening use, and restrooms will be located close by. The plan may need to be revised to accommodate the requirement of a 150' buffer between the skatepark portion and the Arbor Day School. The schedule calls for the project to go out to bid by January 2004 and for construction to begin March 2004.

The Commission encouraged dialogue between the architects and a group of interested local youth, who presented some opinions and questions to the design team. James Jordan presented signatures collected by local youths in supporting the skatepark, and made an appeal for the quick completion of this long delayed project.

2. Overall Park Design

Jeff extended a request from Ben Yacizi, City Manager, to consider incorporating the two existing houses on the lower portion of the Sammamish Commons in

future planning discussions. The idea is to explore the viability of keeping the existing structures either as temporary office space or for long-term programming. The Commissioners felt further information was necessary; specifically, clarification on the following issues:

- What is the cost to upgrade the structures to meet requirements for public use?
- Is the vision for the structures to serve as interim facilities or to be incorporated into the park design on a permanent basis?

Jeff will seek clarification from Ben and will include this item on next month's agenda.

b) Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan

Hope reported that the Trails Committee, with the help of the consultants, is prioritizing specific projects within the overall plan, and finalizing the first draft of the Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan for presentation to the Commission in December. The Commission will then review and, if necessary, revise the plan prior to presentation to the City Council.

c) Lake Washington School District – Eastlake High

Jeff reported that the city has been in discussions with the Lake Washington School District to develop a 3-acre practice field adjacent to the existing football field at Eastlake High School. The following issues need to be resolved in order to move forward with the joint venture:

- Planned lighting for the field must meet with 100% approval from 11 adjoining neighbors, in accordance with district policy. The city is proposing that the field be lit during the same hours as the adjacent football field, which may preclude the need for additional approvals.
- The existing grass surface would not be capable of sustaining planned use, and the infield must be resurfaced.
- The City Council has not appropriated funds for this venture, although there is keen awareness and interest in the project.

Hank Klein, Co-President of the East Lake Baseball Boosters, informed the Commission that the school has plans to replace the synthetic surface on its existing baseball field next summer, and observed that it would be more cost effective to combine the two projects.

d) Section 36

Jeff reported that Shelly Morelli has replaced Bob Burns as the interim Director of Parks for King County. The Commission reiterated its desire to pursue discussions with the County to develop an active rec facility for city use. John has received the okay from City Manager Ben Yacizi for the Commission to approach the County. Jeff will extend an invitation to Shelly Morelli from the Commission to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Commissioners Workshop Summary

David recounted highlights from the WRPA Commissioners Workshop, which featured informative presentations from experts in the parks and recreation field and the opportunity to exchange ideas with commissioners from other municipalities. The presentation elicited energetic discussions about numerous ideas, and the Commissioners cited the following topics as meriting further discussion:

- Staying current with research and polling to assess community issues and interests
- Improving public communications and public relations for parks and rec projects
- Examining the discordant contrast between expectations and capabilities in terms of service delivery
- Pursuing opportunities to meet with other area commissions to discuss and exchange ideas
- Inviting Lee Springgate to make a presentation to the City Council and citizens

b) Park Commission Positions

All Commissioners feel that the two Alternate vacancies should be filled as soon as possible, in order to introduce “new blood” and to maintain an adequate number of alternates versed in Commission proceedings in the event they are needed to replace departing members. Jeff will inform the Council and initiate the process. Jeff also clarified that re-appointments to the Commission are for a 3-year term, and for simplification purposes, all terms have been adjusted to coincide with the calendar year.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

a) Pine Lake Park Phase I Construction

Jeff reported that Phase I Construction has been put out to bid, with contract awarding expected this month.

b) Ebright Creek Park Appeal Process

Jeff reported that the hearing examiner has ordered a preliminary meeting for November 7th to hear from contending parties, and will be setting the hearing date(s) at that time. Jeff will inform Commissioners once the hearing date has been set.

c) Sammamish Recreation Guide

Jeff reported that the city made a first attempt at a “recreation guide” in the last newsletter, which all Commissioners commended. Paul noted that information for special populations was not included and that he would forward information for inclusion in future guides.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

a) North Issaquah Little League Name Change

Jeff and Paul reported that the North Issaquah Little League, consisting of 1200 participants largely from Sammamish, officially changed its name to the Sammamish Little League.

b) Beaver Lake Park Soccer

Paul informed the Commission and Parks Staff that this summer’s Under 8 soccer at Beaver Lake Park was a tremendous success, and the fields suffered little damage from usage. Although recent rains have contributed to more substantial damage, Paul feels the fields should recover by spring.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 22nd meeting were approved.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.